

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-10 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 9 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been amended and claims 6-10 have been added.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 8, 2006, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner; therefore, no further action is necessary at this time.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claim 4 to correct the deficiency specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Bassil. Further, claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto and Bassil in view of VonPless. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

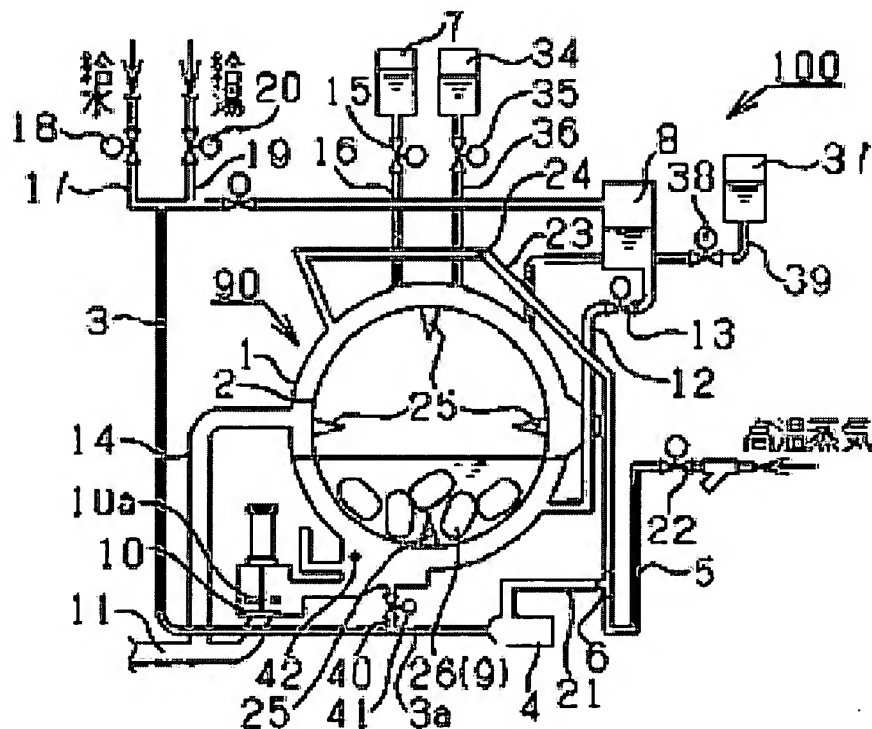
Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a washing machine including "a steam generating apparatus disposed inside the cabinet to generate steam by using high-frequency induction heating", and "wherein the generated steam is directly supplied to laundry placed into the drum." Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Masumoto, Bassil, and VonPless.

The Examiner alleges that Matsumoto discloses all of the recited features of independent claim 1, except for the teaching of a high frequency induction heating mechanism.

Applicants respectfully submit that Matsumoto fails to show or describe the claimed invention. As clearly shown in Fig. 1, which is reproduced below for clarity, Matsumoto discloses a washing machine that facilitates temperature control of **water** for washing by providing a mixer 6 to mix water supplied through a water supply pipe 3 via a pump 4 with steam from a supply pipe 5 "to generate **warm water**." See Abstract and Fig. 1.

【図1】



Matsumoto further indicates that the mixer 6 is disposed at a location separate from the outer drum 1 to “prevent the heat of the high-temperature steam from being directly transferred to the outer drum 1.” *See* Abstract and Fig. 1.

Consequently, Matsumoto teaches away directly supplying generated steam to laundry placed into the drum for at least two reasons:

- (1) providing a mixer to generate warm water, and
- (2) placing the mixer away from the outer tub 1 to avoid even the transfer of heat from the high-temperature steam from being directly transferred to the outer drum.

None of the other references relied on by the Examiner addressed providing steam directly to laundry placed in a drum, and moreover, to the extent any reference would suggest that arrangement, Matsumoto specifically teaches away from that arrangement.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-5, Applicants submit that claims 2-5 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-5 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-10

Claims 6-10 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 6 recites a combination of elements in a washing machine including "a steam generating apparatus disposed inside the cabinet to generate steam by using high-frequency induction heating, the generated steam being directly supplied to the laundry placed into the drum." Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 6 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Independent claim 9 recites a combination of elements in a washing machine including "a steam supply line to supply the generated steam into the drum." Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Consideration and allowance of claims 6-10 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

CPW

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